

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT

SUBJECT 53rd Rifle Regiment in Jindrichuv Hradec

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report on the 53rd Rifle Regiment at Jindrichuv Hradec (N 49-09, E 15-00). The 53rd Rifle Regiment, subordinate to the 1st Division in Ceske Budejovice, was designated as the 29th Rifle Regiment until November 1955. Regimental training in 1955 laid emphasis on defense against atomic attack. As of October 1955 the total numerical strength of the regiment was 1,300 men. The commanding officer was Lt. Col. Pavel Papac.

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The 53rd Rifle Regiment was until November 1955 designated as 29th Rifle Regiment; it is subordinated to the 1st Division in Ceske Budejovice. The regiment was organized as follows:

Regimental HQ - in Fucikovy Barracks, Jindrichuv Hradec

HQ units: Regimental NCO School - Fucikovy Barracks, Jindrichuv Hradec
 Artillery Battalion (howitzers 122 mm, guns 45 mm) - Dukelska Barracks, Jindrichuv Hradec
 Mortar Battalion (mortars 120 mm) - 28th February Barracks, Jindrichuv Hradec
 Self-propelled artillery unit
 Chemical Platoon
 Engineer Platoon
 Signal Platoon
 AA Machine-gun Platoon, all the above units in J. Hradec
 Light Mortar Company (probably Bn's mortar units concentrated for training purposes) (80 mm mortars)
 Reconnaissance Platoon - 28th Febr. Barracks, J. Hradec

1st Rifle Battalion - Zizkovy Barracks, Jindrichuv Hradec

1st Rifle Company	-	3 rifle platoons	and one	HMG platoon
2nd Rifle Company	-	"	"	" "
3rd Rifle Company	-	"	"	" "

2nd Rifle Battalion - Jemcina Castle (moved there from J. Hradec in Nov. 1955)

4th Rifle Company	-	3 rifle platoons	and one	HMG platoon
5th Rifle Company	-	"	"	" "
6th Rifle Company	-	"	"	" "

3rd Rifle Battalion - 9th May Barracks, Jindrichuv Hradec (moved there from Jemcina in Nov. 55)

7th Rifle Company
 8th Rifle Company
 9th Rifle Company

The 3rd Rifle Battalion has been since Nov. 1955, the date of the effective reduction of Czechoslovak armed forces, in cadre form only.

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2. Training

The regiment used the Military Training Area in Boletice-Polecnice for its summer training. In 1955 the emphasis was laid on anti-atomic defense which consisted mostly of digging protective trenches. Battle cooperation with tanks was also frequently on program; this part of training was not too successful because the terrain was soft and the tanks often got stuck in the mud. Tactical night marches were being gradually prolonged until they reached a distance of about 100 km. Marches with gas masks in protective position lasted up to three hours. Live firing practice filled most of the time between major training events.

3. Training Organization and Equipment

The following organizational set up and equipment was used during tactical training:

Infantry Squad consisted of seven men equipped with

- 1 light machine gun Model 52, 7.62 mm
- 1 rocket launcher "Pancerovka"
- 2 submachine guns 7.62 mm
- 3 rifles 98 N (were supposed to be withdrawn and replaced by rifles Model 52, 7.62 mm)
- 1 pistol Model 52, 7.62 mm.

Infantry Platoon consisted of three squads, i.e. 21 men, plus the platoon commander and a mortar crew; its total equipment was

- 1 mortar 80 mm
- 3 light machine guns
- 3 rocket launchers "Pancerovka"
- 6 submachine guns
- 9 rifles
- 4 pistols.

4. Personnel

Total numerical strength of the regiment was in October 1955 1,300 men.

Lt. Col. Pavel Papac, CO of the regiment.

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Capt. Lokvenc (fnu). political officer.

Capt. Slanka (fnu)

Sr. Lt. Zeman (fnu), 9th Company CO.

Sr. Lt. Jisl (fnu), 8th Company CO.

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Sr. Lt. Kumacky (fnu)

Sr. Lt. Vanis (fnu)

Sr. Lt. Dvorak (fnu)

Lt. Kolar (fnu)

Lt. Cenak (fnu)

Lt. Pasker (fnu)

Lt. Jakes (fnu)

Lt. Lukas (fnu)

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